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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/006,924	12/04/2001	Troy L. Stockstad	60178-300402	1640
7590	04/06/2004		EXAMINER	
Brian R. Coleman PERKINS COIE LLP 101 Jefferson Drive Menlo Park, CA 94025-1114			NGUYEN, KHANH V	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2817	

DATE MAILED: 04/06/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/006,924	STOCKSTAD, TROY L.
	Examiner Khanh V. Nguyen	Art Unit 2817

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 February 2004.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-27 and 29-34 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-27 and 29-34 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim 28 is canceled.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-27, 29-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gilbert (6,104,244).

Regarding claims 1-5, 8, 9, 11-15, 18-22, 27, 29, 32-34, Gilbert (Figs. 3-6) discloses the claimed invention except the functional limitation of the sink network. Gilbert discloses power supplies (V_p and V_n); a first pnp transistor (Q8); a second npn transistor (Q12); and a translinear drive stage (40) can be read as an output sink network for driving rail-to-rail output stage (50) which is a push-pull output. It would have been obvious matter of design engineering to have provided the product and sum of the two currents to be substantially equal to a predetermined constant since such design would have provided a constant product output characteristic while providing rail-to-rail operation, accurate and high-frequency stable current limiting. Regarding field effect transistors claimed, it is well known in the art that bipolar transistor and field effect transistor can be used interchangeably and replacing one for another would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art.

Regarding claims 6, 7, 16, 17, 23-25,, 30, 31, wherein transistor (Q7) can be read as current mirror for tracking the current of transistor (Q8) and the predetermined ratio is considered a result effect variable.

Regarding claims 10, 18, 26, it would have been obvious in the absence of unexpected results as a mere matter of design choice to choose rail-to-rail output voltage level of the output stage to obtain the desired output based on the desired used since this is result effective variable.

Claims 1-27, 29-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kobayashi et al. (5,606,287).

Kobayashi et al. discloses power supplies (Vdd and Vss); a pnp field effect transistor (T6); a second npn field effect transistor (T7); and a drive controller (2) can be read as an output sink network for driving output stage (300) which is a push-pull output.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Khanh V. Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-1767. The examiner can normally be reached from 8:00 AM-3:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Pascal can be reached on (571) 272-1769. The fax phone numbers

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for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9306 for regular communications and (703) 872-9306 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Customer Service at (703) 872-9317.

NKD

04/05/04



Nguyen, Khanh Van

Group 2800, Art Unit 2817